External Assistance to Uttar Pradesh

26. LT. GEN. PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh had submitted proposals to the Union Government for financial assistance from Indo-French Assistance Protocol and Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Kuwait Fund for supply of hospital equipments and expansion of hospitals respectively; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since 1996, Government of Uttar Pradesh has forwarded three proposals for financial assistance from the Indo-French Assistance Protocol & OPEC Fund. The status of these proposals is indicated below:—

1. Import of equipment worth FF 3.56 million for the treatment of cancer at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow under Indo-French Financial Protocol. This proposal, which was posed to the French authorities through Department of Economic Affairs, has since been approved.

2. Supply of equipment worth FF 72 million to Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow under the Indo French Protocol Assistance programme. This proposal has been posed to Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs on 16th September, 1997, who in turn, have further posed it to the Embassy of France.

3. Construction and Establishment of a 300 bedded modern hospital at an estimated cost of Rs. 3270.05 lakh in Badaumi from OPEC Fund. The proposal has been posed to Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs on 27.3.1997 for posing to the donor agency.

Chandrapur Thermal Power Station

27. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for enlistment of contract in Chandrapur Thermal Power Station under Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) whether a Committee was set up some time back for the purpose and later on wounded up;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to constitute a fresh Committee for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) is not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) DVC follows a uniform set of norms for enlistment of contractors for various categories of works. These norms are also applicable for enlistment of contractors for Chandrapur TPS.

(b) to (f) It is common practice to review classification of contractors into different categories from time to time. A Committee to undertake such a review had been constituted in March, 1993 by the management of DVC, which was wound up after it had reviewed the classification of existing contractors. A fresh Committee has been constituted in May, 1997 for a similar review.

Haj Pilgrimage

28. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times, the Chairman and staff of the Haj Committee, Mumbai, visited Saudi Arabia in the year 1996-97;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit and the expenditure on ticket, accommodation, transportation, TA and DA;

(c) whether such expenditure are audited; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to curtail such expenses which are deposit from the poor Haj Pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) During 1996-97, Chairmen, Haj Committee visited Saudi Arabia seven times. Executive Officer twice and 11 employees once each.

(b) The visits were undertaken as part of Haj Committee's efforts to ensure best possible arrangements for Indian Haj pilgrims in Makkah and Madinah and to meet concerned Saudi authorities in this connection.